

## OFFICIALS IGNORE CONSPIRACY CHARGE

Denial Made That Owners Are Defrauded In Sales For Taxes.

## NOTICES MAILED TO DELINQUENTS

Appeals Invited in Cases Where Assessment Is Thought Too High.

Officials of the District government say they will decline to enter into any controversy with the Northeast Washington Citizens' Association regarding the charges that the Assessors Office is in a "conspiracy" with real estate agents to defraud realty owners in connection with the sale of real estate for taxes.

James T. Petty, Assistant Assessor, said today that every effort is made to notify owners of property of the sale of their property. "Notices concerning the last tax sale," said Mr. Petty today, "were forwarded to every delinquent last October. In addition notices were forwarded in March to owners of property sold March 15, 1908, notifying them that it must be redeemed by March 15, 1910, in order to avoid the transfer of the deed, as provided by law, to the purchaser at the tax sale."

Property Said to Be Protected. "Any one who is familiar with the workings of this office knows that every possible protection is given property owners in connection with delinquent tax sales. The office is open to the inspection of the public at any time."

As an evidence of the methods of the assessor's office in dealing with property owners, Mr. Petty today directed attention to the following notice, which is being sent out by Assessor W. P. Richards:

"The triennial assessment of real estate is now being made. The law requires that real estate be assessed at not less than two-thirds of its true value. The assessments in many cases have been increased under this requirement of law."

## Appeals Are Invited.

"The board of assessors earnestly requests property owners to look into the new assessment and to file appeals if the valuation appears excessive. Appeals may be filed between the first Monday of January and the first Monday of June, 1911, after which latter date no changes in the first assessment can be made, but said assessment will continue in force for the term of three years. To insure full consideration appeals should be filed before the middle of April, 1911."

## AN ATTACK BY RANSOM ON ASSESSOR'S OFFICE

Conspiracy With Dealers In Real Estate Is Charged Before Meeting of Northeast Citizens' Association. Claims Improper Sales for Taxes.

Sharply criticizing the manner in which the sale for arrears of taxes is held in Washington and declaring that the Assessors of the District enter into conspiracy with certain real estate sharks to defraud property owners, W. S. Ransom offered a resolution before the meeting of the Northeast Washington Citizens' Association last night condemning the methods of the Assessors' office and asking the Commissioners to investigate. The resolution, which was unanimously adopted, asserted that the Assessor should rectify all delinquent taxpayers before their property is put up at auction.

Mr. Ransom said that property on which were due any taxes was put up at auction without warning to the owner. He said sometimes his first knowledge of a sale was when some "shark" had a lien on it, obliging the owner to pay perhaps several hundred dollars to clear his title. Mr. Ransom said he believed that employees of the office were in partnership with some of these real estate agents and got a "rake-off" when the property owner had paid up. Other methods of the Assessor's office were sharply criticized.

Dr. D. S. Walter's remarks in defense

of the present school system were well received by the meeting. He praised the work of the present board, saying that it was one of the best Washington has ever had. "To make any change in the system of handling education in the District," said Dr. Walter, "would be displeasing to most of the citizens. We do not want a single head of education and to force such a system on us would be a crime."

Dr. Walter also brought up the matter of carrying garbage through the streets in an unsanitary manner, and said that the contractors should be forced to provide receptacles which would not allow the odor of the refuse to escape.

The report of the executive committee on the proposed affiliation with a central citizens' association was adopted. The committee recommended that their association should keep out of such affiliations and should attend to their own part of the city where they could work more effectively.

E. H. Tucker, president of the association, proposed that the Commissioners should be authorized to form an advisory committee composed of representative citizens of the District and should be compelled to ask their opinion before favoring or rejecting any bill in Congress dealing with District affairs.

50 YEARS OF SUCCESS.

Father John's Medicine is guaranteed to cure any cough, cold, throat or lung trouble because it has never failed to do all that is claimed for it in the fifty years since it was prescribed for the late Rev. Fr. John O'Brien of Lowell, Mass., by whom it was recommended and from whom it derived its name.

MOTHERS WITH YOUNG CHILDREN Require the nourishment contained in Father John's Medicine. Makes strength.

Always Say "Charge It"

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## BOASTING PROJECT FOR NEW RAILWAYS

East Washington Heights Citizens Discussing Extension of Car Lines.

The extension of street railway facilities to East Washington Heights and the villages of that locality is engaging the attention of the residents of that section of the District at this time, as indicated by the reports made at a meeting last evening of the East Washington Heights Citizens' Association, the regular monthly meeting of which took place in the Baptist Church, on the Bowen road.

It was pointed out in the discussion that the association had just endorsed both bills that are under consideration at present, having for their purpose the installation of rapid transit systems in and around East Washington Heights.

It was reported by several members of the association that Representative Samuel W. Smith, the chairman of the District Committee of the House, and three other members of that committee, visited the section referred to a few days ago and were escorted over the routes that the promoters of the bills now before Congress have in view through which to extend the railroad systems to that territory.

Provisions of Bills.

One of the bills in question provides for an extension of the charter of the East Washington Heights Traction Railway Company, the original charter of which calls for a railroad along Pennsylvania avenue to the Bowen road, from Branch avenue to the Bowen road and then to the District line over a road to be approved by the District Commissioners. The other bill is a new one, representing the efforts of the property owners in the section of the District affected, and it provides for a railroad from Nichols avenue, Anacostia, along Good Hope road to Bowen road, along Sulland road and then to the District line.

It was made plain by the citizens who spoke at the meeting that it is hoped one or both of the bills will be approved, so as to permit the work of construction to be started without delay.

## Centralization of Schools.

Another subject discussed at the meeting last evening was the proposition advanced by the Rev. James W. Many for the centralization of all the high schools in the District on the campus plan. This proposition has been approved by the East Washington Heights Citizens' Association and letters were read from Secretary Carpenter, of the White House, who stated that the subject would be brought to President Taft's attention; from Percy Hughes, assistant superintendent of the public schools, who wrote that there were several phases of the matter that he would like to go into with the association; and from the Board of Education, which replied that the matter had been referred to the committee on playgrounds and school grounds for consideration. The Rev. Mr. Many discussed the advantages of the plan from his point of view.

The association transacted some minor business and then adjourned.

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## Director of Census



E. DANA DURAND

## INDICTED BROKERS ENTER OBJECTIONS

Declare Theirs Is Not Federal Offense—To Resume Case Friday.

NEW YORK, April 12.—The hearing in the case of the alleged bucket shop men whom the Government plans to bring to Washington for trial, will be resumed Friday. Several of the prosecution's witnesses failed to appear yesterday, and the case went over. Objection for E. S. Boggs, Leo Mayer, C. J. Robinson, R. E. Preusser, and E. A. Guy, the indicted brokers, and was made by T. J. McManus, who argued that the indictments do not charge a Federal offense, but a local one, that of the District of Columbia.

## EMIL G. SCHAFER HONORED BY ELKS

Emil G. Schaffer was a guest at a banquet given in his honor last night at the Villa Flora Club, by members of Washington Lodge, No. 15, R.P.O.E.

This dinner was given as a testimonial of appreciation for Mr. Schaffer's work as a trustee of the lodge for five years. F. J. Mersheimer was toastmaster, and speeches were made by Samuel Gompers, Joseph A. Burkhardt, Hugh F. Harvey, Richard A. O'Brien, Col. Emmet Urell, and Robert M. McWade.

## TO LEAVE CLOCKS ALONE.

CINCINNATI, Ohio, April 12.—Cincinnati's city council has repealed the ordinance passed a year ago, whereby "more diligent" was to be procured to workers by setting clock clocks two hours fast from May to October of each year.

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## FAR AWAY STATES SPURN CENSUS OBS

Director Durand Is Having Trouble Filling Vacant Places.

The director of the census is having his troubles getting an efficient working force. Complications have set in, as it were, and it looks as if the near-by States will get more than their share of appointments this year, as in former times.

A large scare was thrown into the employes of the bureau a few days ago when it was announced that wholesale dismissals for inefficiency were about to occur. The terrors of the employes were quickly allayed, however, when it was found that the wholesale dismissals referred to were of temporary employes only.

Early in March an extra force of about 100 was put out to help get out supplies to the various branch offices all over the country. Those jobs were only temporary and now that the work is over men and women employed for emergency service are being dropped.

Western Quotas Unfilled.

But the main trouble lies in the fact that the quotas of far away States are not being filled. The positions are all under the classified service, and the number of those in far off States who took the examination was exceedingly small. A second examination has been ordered, but Director Durand confessed this morning that he had little hope of satisfactory results. If the quotas of the far off States are not filled, the positions will be distributed around the States nearer States.

The jobs pay \$50 a month at the start. There is a probation period of sixty days. If the new employes are inefficient he is dropped. If he stands the test he is raised to \$60 a month.

## Work for Two Years.

But work is guaranteed for only two years and a half at the outside. The better positions are held by the regular employes and the prospect of the new-comers ultimately landing a good job is not bright.

This made plain to those who seek employment in the Census Bureau and many of them refuse to stand the civil service examination with such poor prospects ahead of them.

Director Durand does not know how the system will work out yet, but he thinks he will be able to procure a good working force from persons who live near Washington if the worst comes to the worst.

## 70,000 Begin Friday.

Next Friday, April 15, 70,000 enumerators will begin their work of counting the population of the United States. The entire work must be completed in one month and those in the cities will have only fifteen days to do their part of the enumeration. The entire United States and Hawaii end Porto Rico will be covered.

Alaska, the Philippine Islands, and Guam will not be included as special arrangements have been made for the taking of the census in those places.

Before the official call of the enumerators farmers and heads of families will be furnished with advance sheets explaining what questions will be asked by the officials. The sheets include questions on population, agriculture, manufacturing, commerce, value of products, and the number of employees in the mining and manufacturing plants.

The districts are expected to average about 1,500 names. In the Southern States there will be two enumerators to each district—one white and one colored. In all the districts there will be about 1,500 colored men employed.

The census reports will be published in twelve or fifteen large volumes, which will cover a period of three years.

## ATTEMPTED SUICIDE MAY BE SUCCESSFUL

James W. White, a negro, employed at the Government Printing Office, who attempted to end his life last evening by firing a bullet in his left breast at New Jersey avenue and G street, is in a serious condition today in the Casualty Hospital.

White made a previous attempt to kill himself earlier in the afternoon at his home, 201 First street northwest, but was disarmed by friends.

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